



## Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** The healthy growth and development of our youth depends greatly on the family serving as the primary source of love, identity, self-esteem, and support; and
- WHEREAS,** In Louisiana, there are approximately 4,280 children in foster care because of child abuse and neglect in their birth families. Approximately 3,339 of these children are in foster homes, and approximately 770 are in the homes of relatives and friends; and
- WHEREAS,** Foster families open their homes and hearts to children whose families are in crisis and provide a safe, secure, and stable home environment along with the compassion and nurturing vital in helping children and families heal and reconnect; and
- WHEREAS,** Dedicated foster families frequently adopt foster children, resulting in a continual need for more foster families; and
- WHEREAS,** There are numerous individuals, and both public and private organizations, that work to increase public awareness of the needs of children in foster care as well as the enduring and valuable contributions of foster parents and the foster care system; and
- WHEREAS,** Foster Care Month is an appropriate opportunity to thank the participating families for providing a home and family environment to children in need of affection, love, and security and to support the efforts of those who dedicate their time to children in foster care and to encourage citizens to volunteer their talents and energies on behalf of children in foster care, foster parents, and the child-welfare professionals working in our state.
- NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim May 2006, as

### FOSTER CARE MONTH

in the state of Louisiana.



Attest By  
The Governor

*[Signature]*  
Secretary of State

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set  
my hand officially and caused to be affixed the  
Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the  
Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this  
the 16th day of May  
A.D., 2006*

*Kathleen Babineaux Blanco*  
Governor of Louisiana